NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT. EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS. Volume XXXI......No. 107

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Brooms WOOD'S THEATRE, Broadway, opposite the St. Nichols

IRVING HALL, Irving place.-BLIND TOR'S GRAND

SAN PRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway, opposite Metropolitan Hotel.—Ethtopian Singing, Dancing, &c.— The Committee on Ways and Means. TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery -Sing-mu, Dancing, Burlingues, &c.-Ten Woheing Girls of

GEORGE CHRISTY'S-OLD School of Minstreist, lalland, Mesical Tree, &c., Fifth Avenue Opera House, los. Pand 4 West Twenty-fourth street.—The Can Delves

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mochanics' Hall. 473 Scoad-way.—Nagro Communities, Businesques, &c.—Smylock on the Jaw of Chatham Street.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETRIOPIAN NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway. --

COOPER INSTITUTE, ASIOT Place.—GRAND ENTERTAIN-GRAND ORGAN AND VOCAL CONCERT—AT THE CHURGE OF ST. JOHN THE BAFTIST, Lexington avenue, cor-ner of Thirty-fifth street.

SCHAUS' GALLERY, 749 Broadway.-Mr. G. Q. THO

WITH SUPPLEMENT

New York, Tuesday, April 17, 1866.

ADVERTISING OF THE CITY PRESS.

The Herald the Great Organ of the Business and Reading Public. Annoyed are the returns to the Internal Royan

Department of the receipts from advertising of all the daily papers of this city for two years. In the first mn are the receipts for thirteen months, being th year 1864, with one month of 1863, and in the second solumn are the receipts for the twelve months of 1865:-

	- Americani	TROMEGE	L'OF INC
Paper.	ending Dec	. 31, 1864	. Year 1865.
Herald		7,455	\$662,192
Tribune		260,960	301,841
Times		251,812	284,412
Evening Post		163,177	222,715
World		128,056	177,204
Journal of Commerc	e	109,595	173,646
Transcript		62,644	164,461
Staats Zeitung		67,550	126,380
Sum		94,328	101,793
Commercial Adverti	ser	60,322	77,556
Daily Nows		48,968	77,048
Evening Express		52,350	68,742
New Yorker Demok		21,052	25,734

This shows the HERALD to be, by its extensive and naive circulation, the chief organ of the adverthers of the Metropolis, and the medium of communi ing their business wants to the public. NOTE.

\$2,483,724

The Times and Tribune, in order to make a show of business, publish statements pretending that they are from official returns to the Revenue Department. These nts are made up in the Times and Tribune office suit their own purposes, and very curiously the the Trilune a larger business than the Times! But no returns of the kind have ever been made to that department. Our table, given above, is taken from the official books and is strictly correct in every par ticular. Any one can satisfy himself on this point by suspecting the books at the Internal Revenue Office.

TED NBWS.

THE PLATE WAR

Corrientes 26th and Buenos Ayres 28th of March, reached us yesterday by way of England. The reports from the seat of war on the Plate river are interesting. The Brazilian Admiral, Tamandaré, reached tes on the 21st of February, and sought at view with General Mitre, Commander-in-Chief of the allied land forces, immediately. No movement was, however, undertaken by the Brazilians, and their inactivity was the subject of severe comment; the fleet under the Admiral being a powerful one, including some iron-clads. The Paraguayans held out determinedly and made some very daring naval sorties crossing the Parana in armed canoes, on the vanguard of the Argentines. It was thought the Brazilians would attempt a passage of the Parana, and that it would be de la l'atria was more carefully watched by the allies since the success of the Paraguayan incursions on th "invaders." A very full account of the fortifications of Humaita, with a description of its approaches by land and water, appear in the Hazann to-day. There was a change of ministry in Brazil.

Rusnos Avres was tired of the war, as her financia and other material interests were disturbed and depresent by its continuance. There was a run, amounting broost to a panic, produced by French influence on the Provincial Bank of that city. The merchants proffered aid to the institution, and two private banks came forward and one deposited \$150,000 in silver and the other offering \$250,000 in gold if it was needed.

A United States marine, named Murphy, was killed at a drinking house in Buenos Ayres. He was from the American war steamer Shawmut, lying in that port. The occurrence took place about the 234 of February.

THE FENIANS.

Our advices from Eastport state that a document persuading the English sailors to join the Fen un ranks has been circulated on board the British gunboat at Campo bello. Forty men on the Gleaner, an English vessel, have been put in irons for mutiny. A reward of \$1,000 is to be offered for the arrest of the capturers of the flag on Indian Island. Femians still arrive at Eastport. Two bundred and fifty were expected yesterday from Boston. The Mayor of Calals, Me., apprehends serious trouble from the presence of Fenians in his town, and he has telegraphed to the Governor for protection. No disturbance had occurred as yet an Killian is to address a mass meeting in Calais. No one is allowed in the streets of Cornwall after elever o'clock at night. Colonel Wheeler is of a sanguine and cheerful temperament and takes his imprisonment casy Two United States Army officers appearing on the street in their uniform occasioned some excitement, and nar rowly escaped arrest. The examination of the prisoners

The Fenian Sisterhood opened a fair yesterday, at the Germania Assembly Rooms, for the benefit of the politi-

The steamship City of New York, from Queenstown April 5, reached this port yesterday, bringing European news one day later.

The German question remained unchanged, the pacific

sepect being barely maintained. It is repeated Prance cannot remain neutral in the event of a war, and our Paris correspondent thinks that Napoleon would cer-cainly side with Prussia in accordance with previous arrangement with Bismark—Austria be humbled, Prussia pontrol the German confederation, and "France and

It is said that the French army will leave Mexico in hree divisions, marching at different periods from fovember, 1865, to November, 1867. Cotton advanced one-half of a penny in Liverpoo

April 4, but the rise was partially lost on the 5th inst.

frevisions dull. Breadstulls exiet and steady. Couscis

closed in London at 86% a 88% on the 5th of April. United States five-twenties had advanced.

WEST INDIES.

The steamship Guiding Star, at this port yesterday brought news from Cuba dated to the 11th of April General Scott reached Havana from New Orleans, and embarked on the Guiding Star for New York. Some ent Prim's officers, exiled from Spain, had reached

paintained. Freights were dulf. The late advices from Ponce, Porto Rico, inform that there is a great demand for vessels at that port. About four thousand hogsheads of sugar were awaiting

by the recent outbreak in Jamaica, loudly demanded troops from England for the protection of capitalists Coal was very scarce and at very high rates in Barbados From Jacmel, Hayti, we have a special account, dated on the 25th of March, of the terrible conflagration a Port au Prince, which was reported in the HERALD a fee days since. Incendiarism was at work in the city. The fire commenced in the store of Mr. Hepburn, on th that in one hour seven hundred houses were in fla

the execution of six of Sainave's revolutionary officers, which took place there on the 17th ultimo.

From St. Domingo city, under date of March 20, we learn that the Fraudent, in his message to Congress, drew attention to the recent visit of Secretary Seward to the island, from which he augured vary happy results, as, adopting Mr. Seward's advice, he was determined to promote the development of the resources of the country to the utmost. The late attempt at revolution at San Christoval was a complete failure. The new Minister of the United States (General Cazneau) was very popular.

the execution of six of Salnave's revolutionary

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday there was nothing of importance transacted. A lively passage of arms took place between Mr. Conness and Mr. McDougall, both of California, in which the former declared the latter to be a disgrace to the Senate, and the latter declared the state ment to be a falsehood. The bill in relation to the as Corpus act was taken up, but not acted upon.

Committee on Appropriations, authorizing the payment of \$877,623 to the State of New York for paying the of the militia of that State who served in the wa of 1812. Additional testimony taken before the Recon-struction Committee was ordered to be printed. A long chapter of personal explanations followed, in which Messrs. Conkling and Raymond, of New York, figured conspicuously, without any serious results, however. The bill for the organization of the army was amended by providing that two of the new cavalry regiments should proving that two of the new cavary regiments should be composed of colored men. A resolution was adopted requesting the President to communicate to the House any correspondence with the French government with regard to the withdrawal of its forces from Mexico which may have been exchanged since the correspond ence communicated to the House on January 5, 1866, and especially any correspondence in regard to any specific promise from the French Emperor to put a stop to his proceedings in Mexico, and discontinue imperial

RECONSTRUCTION.

A large mass of testimony was submitted to the Hous vesterday by the Committee on Reconstructi bracing evidence and opinions from Generals Wage Swayne and C. C. Andrews, Alexander Stephens, Schate Sharkey, ex-Governor James Johnson, and several others; but few facts of great interest or opinious phens was the most important. He stated as his opinion that an overwhelming majority of the people of Georgia former position in the Union and enjoy all her rights and adjust all her obligations as a State, under the constitution of the United States as it stands amended. His opinion is, and the sentiment of the people of Georgia is, that the exercise of the right of secession was resorted to from a desire to render their liberties and institutions more secure, and from a elief on their part that this was abs that object. He thinks that the people are perfectly satisfied with the experiment, and that they will never resort to that measure of redress again. He believes that the only hope for their liberties now is the restoration of ion of the United States and of the govern ment under the constitution. He also stated that since the 1st of January the freedmen had gone to work with great regularity, and that the labor question had much improved in all its aspects. The people of Georgia were disposed and ready to do the negroes justice, and to protect them in all their rights. The testimony of Messrs ohnson and Sharkey is given pretty fully els where in our columns

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate yesterday the bills incorporating th New York Board of Fire Underwriters; to improv New York Board of Fire Underwriters; to improve Grand and Third streets, Brooklyn, and incor-corporating the North River Savings Bank, were passed. The bill refunding to various banks and insurance offices the taxes paid in 1863 and '64 on with an amends applicable to New York, was also passed. A bill ap-pointing commissioners to locate an asylum on the

THE CITY.

The President yesterday nominated Henry A. Smythe, resident of the Central National Bank, to be Collector of New York, and Samuel G. Courtney to be United States ney for the Southern District of New York, viol Mr. Dickinson, deceased.

The car drivers' strike still continues. No steps have bee taken by the companies towards conciliating the men and travel still continues very irregular. A meeting of the dritravel still continues very irregular. A meeting of the arrivers was held last evening, at Landmann's Park, at which it was decided to leave the dispute to arbitration. A meeting of sympathizers was held in Harlem, at which nearly one hundred dollars were collected in aid of the men. A committee of citizens has been appointed to receive aubscriptions for the relief of the strikers, many of whom had no money at all laid up when the strike occurred At the meeting of the Board of Councilmen, yesterday the present strike of the drivers was taken up. Resolu tions were adopted directing the Corporation Counsel to take steps to revoke the charters of the railroad companies and to commence suits against them for charging more fare than they are allowed by their charters. The Board of Aldermen directed the Corporation Counsel to notify the proper officers of the several companies to resume running at once, and in case of refusal to institute any proceedings necessary to abrogate the grants

made to them by the city.

In the Board of Aldermen yesterday the Councilms resolution relative to advertising the description of the bodies of unknown persons on which inquests have been held was concurred in, as was also a resolution directing the appointment of a committee of five to inquire intended the expediency of providing relief for the houseless citi zens of New York, by erecting temporary buildings on public grounds, and to petition the Legislature to sanction the raising of the necessary means for the accomplish-

The case of the United States vs. Sinclair Webb, who is charged with having done business in lottery tickets without a license, was set down for hearing at ten o'clock yesterday morning before Commissioner Osbora; but no investigation into the circumstances took place, as it is understood the defendant will not contest the matter with the government. It is stated that upon advice he has consented to pay the amount of the license. Had the inquiry gone on it is supposed that a great deal of interesting information respecting the lettery system and the operations of outsiders not immediately connected

The Madame Jumel will case was called up yesterday n Part 1 of the Supreme Court, Circuit, when, on of defendant's counsel, the trial was postponed until the first Monday in May.

The General Term of the Supreme Court has non

affirmed the order directing the receivers of the Columbian Insurance Company to pay their city taxes in preference to the claims of any other creditors.

Judge Clerke has decided that Mr. Thomas North, for-

nerly counsel to the Hudson River Railroad, wh the books of the company on the ground that fees are still due him, has no lien for costs in actions between the company and other parties not actually collected by the company. The Judge, in his opinion, cites the circum-stances under which a lien may be maintained.

The Kings County Court of Oyer and Terminer com-

monced its April session yesterday. The panel for grand jurors was called, when only thirteen were found quali-

fied, and the court was adjourned till to-day.

In the Brooklyn Court of Sassions yesterday the following named prisoners were brought to the bar and sentenced:—James Powell, assault and battery on a pohogman, Sued \$50, or to be imprisoned fifty days: John

McGarry, assault and battery, fixed \$30; James Meagher, assault and battery, fined \$50; Thomas McGurn, assault and battery, fined \$30; Wm. Myers, grand larceny, State

Prison for five years.
In the General Sessions yesterday Jacob Cline, In the General Sessions yourcan, old pickpocket, who stole fifty-two dollars from Mr. Wm. H. Steele, at the office of the New Jersey Railroad Comled guilty and was sent to the State Prison for pany, ple

Three boys, seventeen years of age, named David Ring, James Davis and William Downes, who stole a gold certificate for five thousand dollars from Messrs. Morris & Braine, were committed yesterday for trial. Two of the boys had got as far as Philadelphia when they were caught, living a fast life on the money.

A man named John Kane was con terday on the charge of forgery.

Among the numerous complaints received at the Com-laint Bureau of the Health Board yesterday was one om a citizen asking a remedy for a serious grievance He having used a certain rat poison in his house finds that the vermin, instead of going into the open air to die, have gone to their nests in the floors and partitions, where their decomposing bodies emit a sickening odor. For the first time in several weeks no seizures of un

cealthy meat were made yesterday,

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Broadway Tabe acle church was celebrated last night, when the Rev

The stock market was firm yestorday. Governments were stronger. Gold closed at 125%. The Money Article s published in the Supplement about.

The Shipping Intelligence and Shipping Advertise-nents will be found in our Supplement sheet this

WISCELLAWROUS.

The attention of the people of the Central American republics was, on the 21st of March, completely occu-pied with the consideration of questions arising from the surrender of General Barrios, ex-President of San Salvador, by President Martinez, of Nicaragua, to the San Salvadorian authorities, when he, Barrios, had been driven by stress of weather to land on Nicaraguan terri tory. There is no treaty of extradition between the render, and it is now asserted that Martinez gave him up in order to secure the aid of San Salvador in making himself Dictator of Nicaragua. England, having always ral Barrios' plan, has commenced an unfriendly diplo

natic action towards Martinez.

Our correspondent in Belize, Honduras, writing on the being taken in, and regarded as a fair yield. Logwood and mahogany were scarce, high and in demand. The weather was cool and pleasant. Finan-cial retrenchments were being enforced by the Legisla-

It was reported in Belize that cholers had broken out in the city of Guatemala; but the particulars had no been received.

In our Supplement sheet will be found full particular attending the wreck of the steamer Vera Cruz, on Body Island, on the 12th inst. A portion of the crew arrived

Judge Underwood, in explaining his recent habeas corpus decision, says that his opinion simply was that the late peace proclamation did not revoke the previous proclamations of President Lincoln suspending the writ in certain cases.

A terrible explosion of what was supposed to be nitro glycerine occurred yesterday afternoon near Wells, Fargo & Co.'s building, in San Francisco. Fifteen persons were killed, eight of whom are unrecognizable on account of being so horribly mutilated. Ten or more were seriously though not fatally injured. The le property is estimated at \$200,000.

atches from Halifax of yesterday state that not a single case of sickness has occurred among the cabin passengers of the steamer England. Henry S. Stanbury, of Ohio, has been nominated Asso-

ciate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Sixth District, in place of Judge Catron, deceased. ciate Justice of the

The German Question-The Game Against

The present position of Prussia on the ques tion that agitates Germany is in one sense markably like that of the radicals on the vital topic of our own politics. We made war for four years against men who proposed to carry certain States out of the Union, claiming and declaring constantly that our nationality and existence depended upon the fact that no State could leave the rest. We triumphed; but no sooner was the war over than the dominant party stepped around to the views of our enenies and declared that the States were out, all the time had been out, and that the question of the day was next to determine the conditions

on which they could come in. Prussia has just been guilty of the same flat contradiction of herself. She and Austria torether made war against Denmark for the two luchles. Denmark claimed them as her own : but Prussia and Austria declared that the rights of Denmark had expired : that the duchies heonged now to a German prince, and that the Scandinavian must give way. On this position the duchies were taken by force; but now Prussia repudiates all notion that Germany at large or any German prince has any rights in the matter; declares that the duchles belonged of right to Denmark, and now belong to the Powers that tore them from her. She holds to this last view so tenaciously that she is even ready to make war against her late ally simply because that ally insists that the two Powers did not take the duchies for themselves, but for Germany. In our own case, we know very well what turned the radicals round. To cover and carry out party games it was necessary to hold opinions directly antagonistic to those the war was waged on; and they faced about without scruple. They hold that the States are out in order to be consistent with something that they propose for the future, not caring to be consistent with the past. In the same way the Prussian change of front indicates a political game of so much future importance that mere

consistency is a trifle in comparison with it. This game is to be played on a large scale, and is altogether the arrangement of the European Napoleon and M. Bismark. The slate was doubtless made up at Biarritz last year. France a tew years since desired to extend her frontier in two directions-toward Italy on the one hand and Germany on the other. Her wishes toward Italy induced the Italian war. That was a struggle in which France and Italy fought against Austria to make Sardinia the one Italian Power. The programme of united Italy only stopped short of Venetia; and it stopped where it did because if it had gone further the war would not have been against Austria merely, but against all Germany. It would have become European; the republicans would have been up, and anybody's throne might have gone down in a day. But stopping where it did, the consideration to France made secure. That consideration was the Italian provinces on her border that she coveted. Her desire in that direction was

gratified. The object of the war that is now to be made in Germany is to satisfy the cravings of France toward the Rhine, just as the Italian war did ber cravings toward Italy. It is still France and another against Austria. The only difference is that the other is Prussia inste Sardinia, and that Prussia is to be made the one German Power, as Sardinia was the one Italian Power. The consideration to France is the whole left bank of the Rhine. Timid ressoners suppose that France ought to besitate to This is a new experiment in the disposition make one great German Power, even more than of the New York Custom House. Heretofore,

far toward making one, she must perhaps make the other to balance it. It should be remembered also that France, aggrandized by these splendid accessions of territory in both directions, would have little to fear from either Power.

If this be in reality the arrangement, it ma ters not what course Austria may take on the Schleswig-Holstein question. The war agree upon will be brought about on that pretext or some other. It seems indeed to be well under stood in Austria that that Power can do nothing to avert the contest, and that giving way on one point would only cause her to be pus on some other. She feels that she might s well fight where she is as anywhere else.

The Italian war was stopped at the ver point necessary in order to secure the objects of its originator; but there is reason to suppor that the greater war to be induced in Ger many may be less controllable. It is possible that the great schemes may at last ensure the objects of their enemies rather than their own Venetia will be one more point in dispute Italy will be active; so also will Turkey and Russia. Revolutionary elements will be up wherever they exist. Hungary will make imperious demands for concessions; and, on the whole, it is highly probable that the present year may see greater changes made in the map of Europe than have been seen since the first Napoleon was Emperor.

The City Railroad Companies and Car

The city railroad companies and the car drivers who struck for higher wages hold out against each other. In the meantime the publie has been put to great inconvenience, and even in danger, by the inexperience and unfit ness of the few new drivers that have been picked up. The sympathy of the entire com nunity, apart from the managers and stockolders of the rallways, is with the drivers. It is evident that the companies are aware of this, oo, as they feel the necessity of attempting t justify their resistance to the just demand of heir employes. The reason for this sympathy must be apparent to every one. Two dollars for fourteen or sixteen hours labor out of twen ty-four, is a very poor remuneration for any kind of work in this city. And for such labor, where the men have to stand upon their feet all the time, exposed to the cold, heat and wet weather, a labor which requires some skill and incessant attention, it is decidedly too little compared with the wages at other kinds of employment. It is said the men received two dollars a day, but in fact they did not, reckoning nine or ten hours to the working day, as is the case at other work, and which is long enough in any labor. The drivers are really not now demanding more than two dollars a day for a fair day's work. The extra time over nine or ten hours should be reckoned and paid for. The men ought to get two dollars and a half for the number of hours in which they are employed.

The Second avenue company, through it reasurer, says, as an excuse for resisting th demand, that its business does not pay. This may be so, and we do not wish to question the statement; though we know that railroad companies often spend their earnings in increasing their property, as is shown by a communica tion in another column, from a person well acquainted with the facts of which he speaks. and then represent that they are not making enough to declare reasonable dividends. Bu if the statement of the treasurer be strictly correct as to the Second avenue line, the condition of the other companies quite different. We know that their property is highly valuable and profits great Their stock is very high and cannot be easily obtained. In fact, it is too good for much to be seen on the market. They can well afford to pay the reasonable wages asked by the drivers. There is another reason why these rich monopolles should pay the two dollars and fifty cents. That is, they make much more over the legal fare than the increase of wages asked. The seven-eighths of a cent for each passenger over what they are legally and strictly entitled to collect amounts to a dollar and a half a day at least for each driver. They extort, then, three times the sum they have a right to collect from the public the increase of wages would amount to. Is it surprising, then, that the sympathy of the community is with

the drivers and against the companies? We are opposed to interference, as a general ule, with labor and capital. These should regulate themselves according to the law of demand and supply and the laws of trade, as all kinds of business, without meddling or dictation from those not immediately concerned : but in this case the press and people have a right to say something. The railway franchises are granted by the public for its convenience. By refusing to pay their laborers properly, or providing against strikes, these companies put he public to great inconvenience and even danger. Their charters are a contract with the public, and in this instance they have violated in principle that contract. While on this subject we cannot but express our gratification at the admirable manner in which the drivers have conducted themselves in this strike. It is reported that there is a movement under way to raise contributions for them, and to induce the railway companies to accede to their demands. We hope it is so, and that the companies will see it is to their interest to pay some attention to public sentiment and the necessities of their late hard-worked employes.

THE NEW YORK COLLECTORSHIP .- At last, it appears, the exciting, protracted and demoralizing squabble of the political candidates, cliques and rings, for the New York Custom House is settled in the appointment of Henry A. Smythe as Collector. And who is this Henry A. Smythe? What has he ever done for the radicals or conservatives; for Governor Fenton or Secretary Seward; for the Loyal Leaguers or the King of the Lobby, or for the transition elements of Tammany Hall, that he should be made our Collector? He has done nothing for any of these cliques that we are aware of, and has only the antecedents and recommendations of a respectable merchant and banker. It is manifest, therefore, that he has been appointed, not for party purposes, but in reference to his supposed qualifications for the legitimate business of the office, and in the way of a mild rebuke to the clamorous party spoilsmen who have been moving heaven and earth and wor-rying the President, till they have exhausted dence in their shameful wranglings fo

one great Italian Power: but having gone so since the time of Swartword, under General

Jackson, it has been appropriated almost ex clusively as a political machine, and, with most effective political disbursement of the spoils and plunder by the active agent of some political clique. Under the administration of poor Pierce, when the democracy of New York were divided into hardshells and softshells, the removal of a hardshell from the Custo House, and the appointment of a softshell in his party throughout the State in the ensuing election upon a hardshell and softshell candidate for Governor; and from that split and that de feat the party has never recovered. Presiden Johnson, in declining to appoint as Collector the candidate urged upon him by the Seware clique or the anti-Seward clique, the softshells or hardshells of the republican camp, and is singling out a man simply for his business capacities, and in view of the interests of the Treasury and our mercantile community, has adopted the best course. If Mr. Smythe, following this example, will devote himself simply to the duties of his office and the interests of the government, we dare say he will prove satisfactory Collector to the administration and the public, whatever may be the complaints of hungry and squabbling politicians.

THE BROADWAY RAILROAD-FINE OLD GEN

PLEMEN OUT OF THEIR ELEMENT.—The manip-

ulations in regard to city railroads in the Legislature the present session have been very amusing. Some of them have been regular circus performances-expert dodges in the science of keeping half a dozen balls flying in the air without apparently lighting anywhere. At one time the backer of one scheme sees his glittering bubble soaring up above all the others. He claps his hands, and cries "Hi! hi!" But, lo, in a moment down goes the ball, and away bursts the bubble. Then up comes another and another prismatic ball in quick succession all to disappear as suddenly as they were brought to view, with the exception of one well-gilded bubble, which, although a very little bubble at first, gradually expands before the astonished gaze of the spectators, and remains the only one to be seen. This latter bubble is the Broadway Surface Railroad scheme. The Albany lobby prestidigitateurs have succeeded in keeping the opposers of the measure charmed with their adroit perform ances as they tossed aloft the under ground, overground, side ground and around ground railroad balls, at the time keeping their own little joker snugly in hand, to be used all the other bubbles have exploded. Promi nent among the spectators to these sleight-of hand diversions may be seen a number of opulent but highly respectable old gentle men from this city, who are tickled almost to death at the fun. They are a fine class o elderly gentlemen, who know more about carrying on the dry goods business on a mammoth scale, or undertaking some gigantic real estate enterprise, than they do about the business of the professional lobbyists and wire-pullers at Albany. They evidently cannot see the game which is being played upon them. Bent upon defeating the Surface Railroad scheme, they have been humbugged into epposing the Underground and other projects. Suppose the Underground bill should pecome a law? The plan is too preposterous ever to be carried into execution. The Crotor Water Department, the Health Comm the City Council of New York, will all interpos injunctions upon the prosecution of the work, and the courts must sustain them. Then what will be the result? The country members, having been made to believe that Broadway must be relieved, will fall back upon the very plan these princely dry goods dealers and kingly real estate operators most object to— the Surface road. The bill will be rushed through, framed in a manner objectionable to them, and they will have their labor for their pains and money. These good, kind, rich old gentlemen, who are laboring so assiduously on babalf of the root defencelors property holders. on Broadway, are only playing into the hands of their opponents. They had better stick to dry goods and real estate, and leave the dodges and jobs of the Albany lobby to more experienced bands. THE POPULARITY OF CONCERTS.—We are glad

to see that concerts are becoming so popular as to practically supersede the old, ordinary operas, of which the people have grown so tired. Concerts are now given every Sunday evening at Irving Hall and at many of our churches, and thus music is employed to refine purify and elevate the public mind instead of to debase it. Barili's concert at the Brooklyn Atheneum, the concert of the Mendelssohn Union, under William Berge, at Dodworth Hall, and the soiree of chamber music, by Mason, Thomas, Matzka, Mosenthal and Bergner, are soon to take place. On the 2d of May Miss Sterling, one of the most magnificent American singers, will give her first concert at Irving Hall. There will be no lack of entertainment, therefore, for all lovers of genuine music and for all who desire to encourage our native talent, which has already rivalled that of Italy, and may in time sur-

RECEPTION AT THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN last night numerous lights gleamed from the win-dows of this strange but handsome edifice, and a long hine of carriages passed up Twenty-third street from Fourth avenue, each depositing its group of fair occu-pants with their attendant cavallers on the broad steps pants with their attendant cavaliers on the broad steps of the Academy. Out on the night air through the massive gothic entrance rolled the strains of operatic music tron Noil's band, and knots of curious loungers were gathered on the sidewalk, scanning the pretty faces that peeped out from the carriage windows, and the dainty white satin alippers that tripped up the steps. Within, the Council of the Academy greeted the visitors and chaperoned each well known distingue through the gallery, on the walls of which the works of Huntingdon, Whittridge, Gignoux, Sommer, Stokes and other artists were placed. The rustle of silk and moire antique, the glustening of jewels and dancing curls, the radiant laces and merry laughter and the buzz of conversation naturally drew the attention of the visitor more to the living portraits of nature than even to the speaking canvas on the walls. Many notables in art, science and literature were present, and the reception was a pleasant and agreeable reunion of friends and sequalitances. To-day the doors of the Academy will be thrown open to the public, and the large collection of American paintings piaced on exhibition.

News from Mexico CORTINA WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF MATAMOROS.

New ORLEANS, April 16, 1866.

A Brownsville letter of the 9th says Cortina, with a force, is about twenty miles from Matamoros, watching the approach of Mejia. Escobedo is operating with

The New Constitution of Texas.

Gatvarros, April 12, 1866.

The Texas constitution abolishes slavery, places freedmen on an equality with whites before the law sad gives the Legislature power to guarantee railroad bonds for iron contracts. It will be submitted to the people on the fourth Monday in June.

A resolution endorsing the President's policy was lost in the Convention.

FRIGHTFUL DISASTER.

Terrible and Mysterious Explosion in San Francisco.

Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Buildings Blown to Atoms.

Fifteen or Twenty Persons Killed and Many Others Injured.

SAN PRANCISCO, April 16, 1866. A terrible explosion of what was supposed to be nitro-glycerine occurred at a quarter past one o'clock to-day, near Wells, Fargo & Co.'s building. The explosion shook the earth like an earthquake for a circle of a quarter of

a mile. Samuel Knight, Superintendent of Wells, Farge & Co.'s Express, died in half an hour of injuries received. G. W. Bell, Supervisor and Assayer, was instanth killed. Mr. Wallub, Wells, Farge & Ca.'s Assayer, Joseph Elliott, John Gallagher, Frank Webster and William Justin were also killed.

Right dead bodies were so mutilated that they co

not be identified.

Louis McLane, Captain Eldridge, of the Pacific Matt
Steamship Company, and Judge Hoffman were bruised
and cut. Felix Lamax, D. Staoy, Jesterson Taylor, H.
Blane, clothing dealer; Captain J. E. Ayres, Fred. Leis, Frank Morris and others, were injured, but not fatal Some will never be identified, as fragments of hu flesh, bones and brains, were found nearly two bi

Montgomery, Sacramento and California streets were lined with broken glass, scarcely a window for severa hundred feet remaining whole. Wells, Fargo & Co.'s horses, and everything in the

te or inanimate, were blown into frag The damage is estimated at least at \$200,000. William Havens, a bookkeeper of the Pacific Mail camship Company, is ascertained to be among the

The cause of the explosion is a mystery. The freight agent of the Pacific Mail Company says that two boxes, each measuring about four cubic feet, were taken from the steamer's dock to the place where the explosion oc-curred. One box was consigned to Idaho City, and the other to Los Angelos. Both were stained with oil. The contents are not known. Forty men are now engaged

City Intelligence.

OFFICE OF DESTRICT ATTORNEY.—A telegram from Washington states that the office of District Attorney for the thern District of New York, rendered vacant by the death of D. S. Dickinson, has been conferred by the President on Samuel G. Courtney, Esq., who has be for some time past discharging the duties of Assista District Attorney with great ability and efficiency.

THE BAR ON THE DEATH OF DANIEL S. DICKERSON. meeting of the New York bar, called for the purpose of taking some appropriate action regarding the death of United States District Attorney Daniel S. Dickinson, will be held to-morrow at twelve o'clock noon, at the Unite States District Court room. Judge Betts will presid The notice published in some of the papers, to the effect that the proposed meeting would be convened on Thur day, was an error. Wednesday was the day appoints by the committee to make the necessary arrangements. afternoon proposals were opened and contracts awarded in the Croton Department for the following jobs:—For a sewer in Ludiow street, between Broome and Delancey streets, contract awarded to Robert Cunningham, at \$1,359 20; time ten days. For a sewer in Suffolk str \$1,359 20; time ten days. For a sewer in Suffolk street, between Rivington and Stanton streets, contract awarded to Robert Cunningham, at \$1,544; time ten days. For a sewer in Ridge street, between Rivington and Delancey streets, contract awarded to Michael Cronin, at \$1,875 41; time fifteen days. For a sewer in Walker street, between Baxter and Centre streets, contract awarded to John Duffy, at \$850 75; time eight days. For a sewer in Howard street, between Centres and Kim streets, dontracts awarded to John Duffy, at \$843 50; time eight days. Proposals were also received for sewers in Eighty-seconi, Thirty-eighth and Thirty-seventh streets; but owing to some particular irregularities they were not opened, but withdrawn.

A FAIR, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FREIAN SE soon, for the react of the aminists of participants of the control sixteen tables loaded with rich and beautiful articles of all kinds, and a large refreshment saloon, where all the delicacies of the season may be had. The ladies of the sisterhood, dressed in black and wearing green rosetics, fitted through the rooms and coaxed the friends of the cause to take chances in the several articles exhibited. During the early part of the evening a band was in at-tendance and discoursed several popular and operatic airs. The fair was well attended, and will no doubt prove a success.

MERTING OF THE TANHANT SOCIETYpresided. The opposition and successful or saw ere the same with the exception of Douglas lor and George W. McLean, which were substitute place of John T. Hoffman and John J. Bradley. The lowing are the names of the successful gentlement.—Sachems, John T. Hoffman, Charles G. Cornell, Pot Sweeny, John Kelly, Matthew T. Brennan, William Tweed, Isaac Boil, James B. Nicholson, John J. Hey, William McMurray, Emanuel B. Hart, Nath Jarvis, Jr. For Treasurer, Henry Vandewater. For relary, Wilson Small. For Sagamore, George W. Rofor Wiskinskie, Stephen C. Duryea. Election Mon April 16, 1866, at half-past seven P. M.

News from New Orleans.

New Orleans, April 16, 1866.

Mail contracts are in operation between Houston and

New Orleans.

The Brashear people are pushing on the direct railroad and telegraph.

The frost has killed the cotton in Baton Rouge and Point Coupee parishes, and it will have to be replanted.

Point Coupee parishes, and it will have to planted.
Cotton seed is in demand.
The crevasses continue to be very bad. The work of repair on some has been abandoned, and the country flooded. Crevasses are feared near Morganzia. The consistences are discussing the means of cloning them.
Letters to the Methodist Conference report Biah Soule in a dying condition.
Arrived steamer Montgomery from New York.
Cotton is depressed by the foreign news and irregult but better qualities are comparatively firm; sales 1,3 bales low iniddling at 35c. Recapits since Saturds 4,850 bales; to-day 2,750. Sugar and molasses nomin Flour, superfine, \$7.37%. Corn, mixed and yelle 90c. a 96c. Oats 52c. a 56c. Mess pork \$23. Hay \$7.00 and \$25. The conference of the control of the conference of the control of the contro

Disturbance at Norfolk.

Nonrola, Va., April 16, 1866.

The negroes were out to-day in a large procession in honor of the passage of the Civil Rights bill. While the procession was passing through the streets a difficulty occurred between the negroes and whites, during which one white main was killed, and his brother and stepmother were mortally wounded. Order was restored by the military. Dangerous Walls.

OFFICE No. 2 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, April 16, 1866.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD. In your paper of Friday last you state that the walls of the old American Hotel building, corner of Broadway and Barclay street, were pulled down, under the direction of Superintendent Kennedy and a force of police. tion of Superintendent Kennesy and a force of ponce. This is an error, as said walls, or the dangerous portions thereof, were taken down by the owner of the property, in compliance with a notice issued and served upon hims by this department, on the day after the free, and the work was done under the immediate supervision of Deputy Superintendent Adams and Inspector West, of this department.

Superintendent of Buildings.

Personal Intelligence.
Governor Parsons, of Alabama, is among the guests at Fifth Avenne Hotel.
General H. W. Thomas, United States Arms, is staying at the Hofman House.

Opening of the Welland Canal.
St. Catheren, C. W., April 16, 1868.
The Welland Canal is clear of ice, and will be opened for navigation to morrow, the 17th inst.
There is a good deal of ice yet in the lake off Port Cotborne, but if the weather should be favorable, vessels will be able to navigate through in a few days.

Court Calendar—This Day.

Suprama Court—Greut —Pari 1—Nos. 493, 645, 696, 1111, 1194, 1159, 879, 437, 1357, 1475, 333, 1439, 1462, 995, 675, 1357, 1401, 650, 541, Part 2—Nos. 402, 1452, 975, 1300, 742, 734, 1056, 750, 872, 802, 792, 793, 1140, 1246, 628, 1082, 1380, 1008, 538, 1450, 196, 136, 136, 196, 197, 198, 177, 220, 171, 167, 194, 263 to 212.

Supramor Court—Trial Term—Part 1—Adjourned to Wednesday next. Part 2—Nos. 150, 2442, 2326, 2300, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2100, 1444, 2116, 2115, 2138, 2122, 2128.